

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10547

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, EEC, BE, US
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC PRESIDENCY ON UNGA
SESSION THIS FALL

REF: BRUSSELS 10488 (NOTAL)

1. BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY REQUESTS THAT SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (PARA 4D REFTL) BE DELETED AS TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION DURING SEPTEMBER 7 CONSULTATIONS WITH MESSRS BOSWORTH, FRANK, HELMAN AND ALBRECHT.
2. REASON FOR CHANGE IN AGENDA IS THAT BELGIAN DISARMAMENT EXPERT, PIERRE CHAMPENOIS, WILL NOT RETURN FROM NEW YORK IN TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS ON 7TH.
3. PRESIDENCY OFFICER TOLD US THAT EC CONSIDERATION OF DISARMAMENT BY EC EXPERTS WAS NOT YET ADVANCED BEYOND PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION STAGE. PRESIDENCY HOPES THAT EC
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CONSIDERATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF DISARMAMENT AS TOPIC FOR 1978 SPECIAL UNGA SESSION WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED TO PERMIT FRUITFUL INTERCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH U.S. AND OTHER NATO ALLIES AT NATO MEETING SCHEDULED ON SUBJECT FOR OCTOBER 3-4.

4. FYI: PRESENT STATUS OF EC REGIONAL DISARMAMENT STUDY

FOLLOWS:

EC EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY RPT MAY BE A BETTER CHANCE FOR DISARMAMENT ON A REGIONAL BASIS (E.G. AFRICA OR LATIN AMERICA) THAN THERE IS ON A GLOBAL BASIS. ANY REGIONAL DISARMAMENT SCHEME SHOULD INCLUDE ALL ARMAMENTS, NOT ONLY CERTAIN CATEGORIES. EC DISARMAMENT EXPERTS ARE CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE EC PRESIDENCY INTRODUCE AN UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD STATE, IN EFFECT, THAT IF THE COUNTRIES OF A CERTAIN REGION AGREE THEMSELVES TO LIMIT THE IMPORTATION OF ARMS, THE INDUSTRIALIZED, ARMS-PRODUCING NATIONS WOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES BY TREATY NOT TO EXPORT ARMS TO THE COUNTRIES OF THAT GEOGRAPHIC AREA. THE TWO MOTIVES BEHIND THIS PROPOSAL ARE: (A) TO REGAIN SOME INITIATIVE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE SOVIET BLOC; AND (B) IF EC PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED BY THE COUNTRIES OF ONE OR MORE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, TO PERMIT LDC'S TO SHIFT SOME OF THEIR DEFENSE SPENDING TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE EC EXPERTS APPEAR TO HAVE FEW ILLUSIONS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR PROPOSAL. THEY RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTY ANY SUCH RESOLUTION WOULD ENCOUNTER FROM THE LDC'S THEMSELVES WHO WANT ARMS FOR SECURITY AND PRESTIGE AND, IN AFRICA, FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHAMBERS

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